



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office  
District of North Dakota

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## **Fort Yates Man Sentenced for Assault**

**BISMARCK** - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on January 26, 2010, **Matthew St. Pierre**, 24, Fort Yates, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury. St. Pierre pleaded guilty on November 2, 2009.

Judge Hovland sentenced St. Pierre to serve three years and five months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. St. Pierre was ordered to pay restitution of \$7115.88 and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The offense occurred on January 7, 2009, at St. Pierre's home in Fort Yates on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. St. Pierre and his mother were both consuming alcohol and began arguing about statements St. Pierre's mother had made to St. Pierre's girlfriend. After being pushed by his mother, St. Pierre retaliated by hitting her in the head and face multiple times, causing injury to her head and eye. The injury to her eye was so significant that her eye ultimately had to be removed. Judge Hovland commented that this sentence was imposed, in part, because of St. Pierre's prior history of domestic violence.

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The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Standing Rock Agency.

Assistant United States Attorney Rick Volk prosecuted the case.

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